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Warren Man Pleads Guilty to Post Office Burglary

Bangor, Maine: United States Attorney Paula D. Silsby announced that **Michael Randall Ely**, 23, of Warren, Maine, pled guilty on November 26, 2007, in U.S. District Court in Bangor, Maine, to Burglary of a Post Office. Ely faces a possible sentence of 5 years imprisonment, and a fine of up to \$250,000, or both.

Court records reveal that in November 2006, Ely broke into the Etna, Maine Post Office and stole two U.S. Postal money orders and several pieces of mail, including an insurance check in the amount of \$280. During the investigation of the burglary, dried blood was discovered on a fax machine located in an area of the post office that is off limits to the public. It was later determined through DNA evidence that the blood was that of Ely. The investigation also revealed that one of the money orders had been cashed by a friend of Ely's and the proceeds given to Ely. The insurance check had also been cashed by a third party, and the proceeds given to Ely.

United States Attorney Silsby praised the investigation conducted by U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Penobscot County Sheriff's Office and the Maine State Police Crime Laboratory.

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